

INFRAINSIGHTS

Insights Igniting Curiosity



InfraShorts

- The EU launched a €30 billion fund for green infrastructure, focusing on renewables and smart cities.
- India expanded its National Logistics Policy to enhance digital infrastructure, multimodal transport, and reduce costs.
- The US made progress with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, upgrading bridges, expanding broadband, and EV charging.

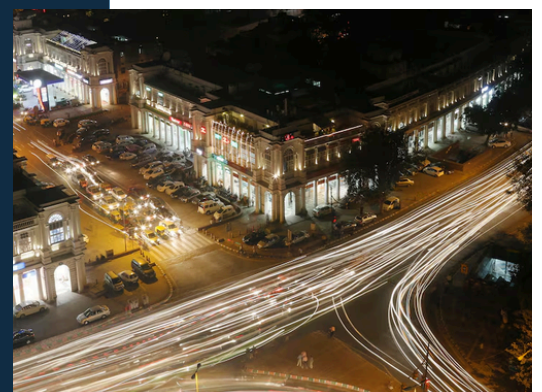
Olympic Makeover: Is Paris 2024 Rewriting Urban Future?

The 2024 Paris Olympics are driving transformative infrastructure development, with a strong focus on sustainability and long-term urban benefits. Central to this transformation is the Grand Paris Express, a massive metro expansion that enhances connectivity across the city. The Games are also revitalizing Seine-Saint-Denis, a traditionally underdeveloped area, with the construction of the Olympic Village, which will be converted into housing after the event.

Urban renewal is further accelerated by public transport upgrades, the creation of new green spaces, and significant investments in renewable energy, such as solar and wind power. Paris in 2024 emphasizes sustainable construction, using low-carbon concrete to reduce environmental impact. The Olympics are creating thousands of jobs, particularly in construction, and social integration projects, like new schools and community centers, ensure widespread benefits. The adoption of smart city technologies will enhance urban mobility, leaving a lasting legacy that improves Paris's livability well beyond 2024.

NHAI Sets \$2.4B Monetisation Plan

India's National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) plans to monetize road projects worth up to \$2.4 billion (150-200 billion rupees) in the current fiscal year ending March 2025. This move, aimed at reducing its substantial debt, will be executed through infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs). NHAI, with an outstanding debt of 3.2 trillion rupees (\$38 billion), is focusing on leveraging its assets via InvITs to manage and repay loans. The strategy is expected to reduce NHAI's debt to around 3 trillion rupees by the end of fiscal 2025. The Indian government has directed NHAI to use the proceeds from these monetized assets to retire its debts, a key step in alleviating the financial burden of the state-owned authority.



Shell to invest in phase 2 of Surat gas project in Australia

Shell announced plans to invest in the second phase of development at Arrow Energy's Surat gas project in Queensland, Australia. This phase will include up to 450 new production wells, along with pipeline and infrastructure upgrades. While Shell did not disclose the investment value, the company expects the project to yield an internal rate of return exceeding the hurdle rate for its integrated gas business. The gas from the project, a joint venture between Shell and PetroChina, will supply Shell's QCLNG facility, with peak production expected at 22,400 barrels of oil equivalent per day by 2026.



South Africa's first skyscraper with a Solar facade

Energy Partners, in collaboration with Fairvest Limited, has completed South Africa's first solar facade skyscraper, the Metalbox, in Auckland Park, Johannesburg. This groundbreaking project integrates building-integrated photovoltaics (BIPV) to generate up to 300 MW annually, setting a new standard in sustainable architecture in the country. Fairvest's COO, Riaz Kader, highlighted the initiative as a key part of their ESG and strategic objectives, aimed at reducing energy costs and increasing energy independence. This innovative solar installation reflects Fairvest's commitment to investing in renewable energy and water infrastructure, aligning with their broader goal to de-risk their portfolio.

India and Maldives Unveil Major Infrastructure Projects

India and the Maldives have inaugurated infrastructure projects that were initiated during President Ibrahim Solih's administration. These developments focus on improving connectivity and public services, highlighting the strengthened bilateral relationship between the two countries. The projects, spanning transportation and essential services, mark a significant step in advancing infrastructure development. This collaboration underscores both nations' commitment to mutual growth and enhanced cooperation in building critical infrastructure.



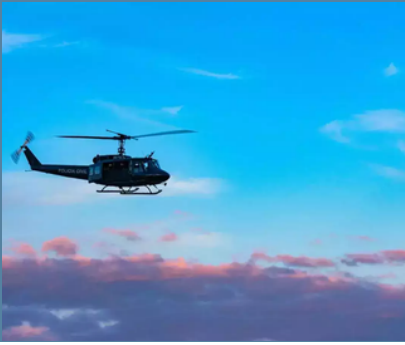
The Union of the Comoros has received a USD 135 million grant from the African Development Fund to enhance its ports and boost regional trade

The Union of the Comoros is set to enhance national and international connectivity through a significant port infrastructure upgrade, aimed at promoting regional integration and fostering value chain development. This initiative is supported by the largest-ever financial package to the Indian Ocean archipelago, backing the Maritime Corridor and Regional Trade Facilitation Project. The project will extend and modernize two critical ports, vital for the economic growth of the islands, and establish a special economic zone. The funding comprises a \$133 million grant from the African Development Fund, the concessional arm of the African Development Bank Group, alongside an additional \$2 million grant from the Bank's Transition Support Facility, dedicated to supporting Transition states.



Eurasian Development Bank recommends soft infrastructure measures to popularize INSTC

The Eurasian Development Bank has recommended improving soft infrastructure along the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). Key measures include digitalizing documents, streamlining customs processes, and harmonizing standards among participating countries to enhance transport facilitation. These actions aim to make the INSTC more efficient and attractive for international trade, ultimately boosting its usage and effectiveness in connecting Eurasian markets.



India to boost helicopter manufacturing

Union Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu announced on 9 August that India is set to advance in the helicopter industry with the Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill, 2024. This Bill aims to enhance aviation capabilities, including helicopter manufacturing and introducing seaplanes. He highlighted the current fleet of just 250 helicopters and expressed confidence that the Bill will boost manufacturing and infrastructure, with state governments supporting these initiatives to expand air travel options.

Bharatmala Phase-I to Complete by 2027-28: MoRTH

The Modi government's Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-I, which has exceeded its expenditure limits, is projected to be completed by 2027-28, as per the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) annual report. This phase covers 34,800 km across 31 states and UTs, with 26,425 km awarded and 17,411 km already constructed. Approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in June 2017, Bharatmala is set to improve economic corridors and feeder routes. The project, estimated at Rs 6,92,324 crore, is funded through the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund, additional budgetary support, and private investments. A revised financial proposal is under review due to increased project and land acquisition costs. MoRTH's Vision 2047 aims to develop high-speed corridors and enhance passenger amenities on national highways.

May end maintenance contract for Pune-Satara highway: Mr. Gadkari

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari stated on Thursday that the ministry is exploring options to mutually terminate the contract with the existing contractor for the Pune-Satara highway, a part of the Mumbai-Bengaluru National Highway (NH) 48. This comes after Maval MP Shrirang Barne raised concerns about the deteriorating condition of the highway and service roads, which are poorly maintained by Reliance Infra Limited (RIL) and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). He acknowledged the issue, noting attempts to resolve it had failed. He mentioned that NHAI is working on a new Detailed Project Report (DPR) and aims to address the problem through mutual agreement to avoid further legal complications.

InfraIndia



India's Logistics Cost to Drop Below 9% of GDP by April: Mr. Gadkari

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that India's logistics costs will drop below 9% of GDP by April next year, down from the current 16%. This reduction is expected to boost exports and economic efficiency. The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) had estimated logistics costs between 7.8% and 8.9% for 2021-22. He emphasized the need for more job creation and noted the government's increased focus on rural and agricultural sectors under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

InfraHub





Abdul Khalik Khan
MBA-IDM
SCMHRD'26

Olympics 2036: A Vision for India's Future

India hosting the 2036 Olympics would be a proud moment, but more importantly, it offers a chance to revolutionize the nation's infrastructure. For instance, India would need to build at least 10 new stadiums and sports centers in cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, and Hyderabad, each capable of seating over 50,000 spectators. These facilities would not only host the Games but also serve as training grounds for the 120 million young Indians under the age of 25, fostering a culture of sports and fitness. Transportation infrastructure would require a substantial overhaul. Expanding metro systems by 200 kilometers across major cities and introducing 1,000 new electric buses could cut travel times by 40%, ensuring smooth movement for the expected 15,000 athletes and millions of visitors. Additionally, upgrading airports to handle an extra 20 million passengers annually would further enhance connectivity.

The hospitality industry would see a boom, with the construction of 500 new hotels and the renovation of 1,200 existing ones. This could accommodate the additional 1.5 million tourists anticipated during the Games, potentially increasing tourism revenue by 30% and contributing an estimated \$5 billion to the economy. Sustainability is critical. By integrating 500 megawatts of solar and wind energy into the Olympic infrastructure, India could reduce carbon emissions by 30%. Furthermore, implementing rigorous recycling programs could divert 75% of the 50,000 tons of waste expected from landfills. These measures would ensure that the Olympics are not just a fleeting event but a catalyst for building a greener, more sustainable future for India.

CCEA approves ₹50,655 crore for high-speed corridor projects across India

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved eight vital national high-speed corridor projects, covering a total distance of 936 km with an investment of ₹50,655 crore. Among the major undertakings are the 88-km Agra-Gwalior corridor, the 68-km Ayodhya Ring Road, and the 47-km Kanpur Ring Road, all aimed at enhancing connectivity and easing traffic congestion. Additionally, the 121-km Guwahati Ring Road and the 214-km Tharad-Ahmedabad corridor will significantly improve transportation links in the Northeast and Gujarat. These initiatives are projected to generate 4.42 crore man-days of employment, providing a substantial boost to the economy.

Reliance to commission first solar giga-factory in FY25

Reliance Industries Ltd, India's leading company, is set to commission its first solar giga-factory within this fiscal year. The plant will initially produce 20GW of solar PV by the 2024-25 fiscal year, with plans to scale up to 100GW by 2030. As part of its strategy to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2035, Reliance is emphasizing renewable energy projects, local supply chains, and strategic partnerships in the clean energy sector.

Ceigall India IPO gets fully subscribed on the second day of offer

Ceigall India a Ludhiana based highway construction project development company's ₹1,252.66 crore initial public offering (IPO) was fully subscribed by the second day of bidding. Priced between ₹380-401 per share, the IPO saw bids for 2.74 crore shares against 2.23 crore available. Non-institutional investors subscribed 1.75 times, retail investors 1.65 times, while qualified institutional buyers showed minimal interest with just 1% subscription. The offering includes a ₹684.25 crore fresh issue and a ₹568.41 crore Offer-For-Sale by promoters and shareholders. Proceeds will be used for equipment purchases, debt repayment, and corporate needs. Ceigall India's order book stands at ₹9,470 crore, with a 46.5% revenue increase in fiscal 2024.



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